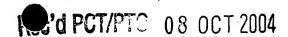


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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C11D7/50 C23G5/032 C11D7/26 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C11D C23G C07C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1,7,8 US 6 191 087 B1 (HENNEBERRY MARK ET AL) A 20 February 2001 (2001-02-20) claim 1; example 15 1,7,8 WO 01 74984 A (VERTEC BIOSOLVENTS L L C) Α 11 October 2001 (2001-10-11) claims 1,2 Α US 2 371 281 A (H. V. CLABORN) 13 March 1945 (1945-03-13) cited in the application the whole document Patent family members are listed in annex. Y Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents : 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to hvolve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "A" document member of the same patent family Date of malting of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 12 August 2003 22/08/2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Grittern, A Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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